

Harbor Oil Superfund Site Community Involvement Plan Summer 2007

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed this community involvement plan to outline how we will inform and involve community members during our study and cleanup of contamination at the Harbor Oil Superfund Site, located in Portland, Oregon. EPA developed this plan based on interviews and discussions with individuals and groups from the community. This plan can be updated at any time as we receive new information.

QUESTIONS?

If you have questions about the plan or the cleanup, please contact Suzanne Skadowski, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator at (206) 553-6689 or (800) 424-4372 or e-mail: skadowski.suzanne@epa.gov.

For the latest version of this plan and other project information, visit our Harbor Oil webpage: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/HOI>.

Community Involvement Goals

We encourage you to participate throughout the study and cleanup. Identifying community concerns early in the process will help EPA make sure the cleanup meets the needs of the people who are the most affected by the contamination.

EPA's community involvement goals for the Harbor Oil project are to:

- Provide useful and timely information about the study, progress and activities;
- Provide opportunities for meaningful public participation;
- Respond to community questions and concerns as they arise;

What We've Heard So Far

EPA staff interviewed citizens, business members, and local and state government officials to gather input on how we can effectively communicate with the community. These discussions were focused on understanding community concerns related to the cleanup and finding out how affected community members want to receive information about EPA activities and findings.

The interviews aimed to find out how interested parties would like to be involved. We met with individuals and groups including: Harbor Oil Community Action Group; Columbia Slough Watershed Council; Portland International Racetrack; Heron Lakes Golf Course; City of Portland Parks and Recreation Department; and George Middle School.

Based on interview responses, our primary means of communicating with the community about this site will be through email announcements, fact sheets, and community or neighborhood meetings.

How You Can Get Involved

Following are some of the ways you can find out about the site and be involved in decisions about the cleanup. We welcome additional suggestions from community members.

Talk with Project Staff The EPA project manager and community involvement coordinator are available to talk with you about the project and answer questions. See contact information below.

Join Our Mailing List Fact sheets and other materials summarizing key information and meeting announcements will be distributed to the Harbor Oil project e-mail and postal mailing list, the Harbor Oil Community Advisory Group e-mail list, and by posting to the Harbor Oil Superfund webpage. To be added to or removed from the lists please contact EPA's Community Involvement Coordinator, as described below.

Join the Harbor Oil Community Advisory Group People representing a variety of neighborhoods and interests have formed a community advisory group for the site. The Harbor Oil Community Advisory Group advises EPA about community issues and concerns for the site, and provides a place where information can be shared and discussed among community representatives. The Harbor Oil Community Advisory Group meets monthly at the North Portland Neighborhood Services Office in the Kenton Firehouse. For more information about the group, contact Mark Stephan at (360) 546-9467 or (971) 645-9113 or e-mail stephanm@vancouver.wsu.edu.

Attend a Public Meeting EPA will hold public meetings to provide important site information at key project decision points. All public meetings will be announced in advance in fact sheets, on the website, and notices in the *Oregonian* and *Portland Tribune* newspapers.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Us If you have questions or concerns about the Harbor Oil project, please contact us. TTY users, please call (800) 877-8339

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Visit Our Website Current information about the site, including all published site documents, can be found at this EPA internet site: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/HOI>

Visit the Information Repository The information repository provides a convenient community location for public review of EPA's technical documents and reports. Please call ahead for hours:

North Portland Neighborhood Services
(Kenton Firehouse)
8105 North Brandon Street
(503) 823-0215

Site History and Background

The Harbor Oil site is located at 11535 North Force Avenue in Portland. The site was added to the Superfund National Priorities List in 2003. The 4.2-acre site is a waste-oil reprocessing facility located in an industrial area near the Portland Expo Center.

EPA inspected the site in 2000 and found hazardous substances in the soil, including oil, gas, diesel, metals, pesticides, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Contamination at the site poses a potential risk to adjacent wetlands located to the west and south and Force Lake located to the south. The area surrounding the site is part of a larger wetland/marsh area known as the Columbia Slough Watershed.

The site was formerly used for waste-oil processing and tank truck cleaning in the 1960s. In 1974, a major waste-oil spill from on-site storage tanks killed fish in Force Lake. In 1979, a severe fire destroyed the facility, causing a large volume of used oils and other contaminants to flow across the site and into wetlands and Force Lake. In 1980, the facility was rebuilt and a new tank farm was constructed.

The facility is currently operated by Energy & Materials Recovery Incorporated (EMRI) and Oil Re-Refining Company (ORRCO). The site contains 15 tanks ranging in size from 4,000 to 320,000 gallons, holding used petroleum products in varying stages of recovery.

